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The EYE BOROUGH COUNCIL.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1923.

EYE, SUFFOLK,
March, 1924.

To His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen, and Councillors of the Borough of Eye.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Annual Report to you for the Year 1923.

BIRTHS.

The number of Births registered in the Borough for the year 1923 was 45—24 males and 21 females, equal to a birth rate of 24·5 per 1000 of the population. During the year there were 3 illegitimate births—2 male and 1 female.

The estimated population to the middle of 1923 was 1,835.

DEATHS.

The total number of Deaths registered in the Borough for the year 1923 was 20—9 males and 11 females, and equal to a death rate of 10·8 per 1000 of the population.

The number of deaths was for the previous year (1922) more than double what it is for this year, viz.:—in 1922 the deaths numbered 41, and this year the number is 20.

The Deaths occurred from the following Causes, viz.:—

Tuberculosis of Respiratory System—1 ...	1 Female.
Cancer—3	1 Male, 2 Females.
Cerebral Hemorrhage—1	1 Male.
Heart Disease—3	3 Females.
Bronchitis—2...	2 Males.
Pneumonia (all forms)—2	1 Male, 1 Female.
Other Respiratory Diseases—1 ...	1 Female.
Congenital Debility and Malformation—Premature Birth } 2 ...	2 Females.
Other defined Diseases—5	4 Males, 1 Female.

There were 2 deaths of Infants under 1 year of age, both females.

There were no Suicides in the Borough.

The following are the Deaths registered according to age:—

2		under 1 year.
0	...	over 1 and under 2 years.
0	...	„ 2 „ 5 „
0	...	„ 5 „ 15 „
0	...	„ 15 „ 25 „
1	...	„ 25 „ 45 „
5	...	„ 45 „ 65 „
12	...	„ 65 and upwards.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES (NOTIFICATION) ACT, 1889.

The Infectious Cases notified to me during the Year 1923 numbered 8.

The Diseases were the following:—

Chicken Pox 3; Pneumonia 2; Pulmonary Tuberculosis 1; Malaria 1; Ophthalmia Neonatorum 1.

All the above Cases were treated at home. The Pneumonia Case occurred in a man of 57 years of age—a publican, and he died. The Malaria Case was imported from India—a soldier who was invalided home, and is now practically well.

All the Cases were inspected by myself and the Sanitary Inspector, and the houses disinfected.

The Ophthalmia Neonatorum Case was soon cured, and the vision apparently was quite normal.

The Pulmonary Tuberculosis was quite in its early stages, and the patient is now apparently all right.

There was one death of Tuberculosis—a girl who had been in domestic service.

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SANITARY REPORT.

HOUSE AND TOWN PLANNING ACT.

Under the Housing Scheme 20 Houses have been built and all are occupied, but in spite of this owing to the insufficiency of House Accommodation, several tenants have been accommodated at the Old Infirmary, and serious Sanitary defects occured which necessitated the premsses being under observation during a greater part of the year. In one case the apartments were quite unfit for occupation, and eventually the Council applied for an ejectment order, which was granted, and the apartments closed.

In my opinion these rooms as at present constructed are unfit for habitation, but there is space and ample material for from 12 to 20 houses, and the cost would be such that they could be let at Economic Rents. There is a good water supply on the premises, and the Main Drainage is connected with the Valley Drain, so there would be no difficulty in getting rid of the surface water and waste water.

I have inspected some Cottages in Lowgate Street, six in number—of these the ones occupied by Ralph, Dunnett, Pooley and Pulford are in a very bad state of repair. I would suggest that notices be served on the owner to repair or convert them into Two Cottages, and that the yards also be filled in so as to get rid of the surface water which stands in pools at times, and creates a serious nuisance. A nuisance also occurs owing to faecal matter being put into the drain.

Two Cottages in Magdalen Street, occupied by Chambers and Pulford, have insufficient air space for the families now occupying them, and these would be better converted into One Cottage.

In Water Yard 1 received a complaint from the County Medical Officer of Health as to a window not opening. This has received attention, but further repairs to the walls of the Cottage are necessary.

The frost and wet during the autumn and winter has seriously affected the walls of the other Cottages in the Water Yard, and steps should be taken forthwith to remedy the various defects.

If my suggestions are adopted with regard to the Magdalen Street and Lowgate Street Cottages, it will for the time accentuate the Housing difficulty in the Borough, which is already acute, and I would point out to the Council that the houses already built under the Housing Scheme, although a great boon, are quite inadequate for the needs of the town, as is shewn by the numbers still residing in the Old Workhouse, and which would have been increased, had not the Council decided that no further tenants should be admitted there.

It would therefore appear that the only way out of the difficulty is to proceed with the Scheme for Converting the Old Workhouse into Cottages, and I recommend that this be done as early as possible, and further that steps be taken for the erection of further Cottages on the Victoria Cresent site.

WATER SUPPLY—No new supplies of water have been added during the year. The supply is from the public pumps in Magdalen Street, Church Street, Ludgate Causeway, Langton Green, and the well in Cock Road, also from private pumps.

SEWAGE—This is carried through a filter bed with out flow into a ditch in the Abbey Meadows, from the main in Lambseth Street; a valley drain and three smaller drains flow into three other ditches.

HOUSES—No new houses have been built during the year: some are needed as there are some unfit for habitation. Four houses in Wellington Road have been repaired after notices by the Council. Thirty-two houses were inspected and subsequent visits paid. Twelve houses were found defective—4 were repaired, and 1 case of overcrowding was abated.

WORKSHOPS—These remain the same as in the previous year, viz.:—

4 Dressmakers; 2 Tailors; 2 Boot Makers; 4 Bakehouses (1 underground);
2 Smiths: 2 Cycle Shops; 2 Motor Garages; 3 Wheelwrights.

These are all kept as well as the trade permits.

There are no milk shops in the town, the supply comes direct from four farms, and is delivered by carts. The Cowsheds are kept in fair and good condition.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES—These are the same in number as previously, and have been lime-washed and are kept clean.

NUISANCES—One notice was served by order for overcrowding, and one by order for uncleanliness. Six smaller cases were remedied after verbal notice.

APPENDIX.

Area in Acres—4,173. Population (1923)—1,835. No. of Inhabited Houses (1921)—497.
No. of Families *or* Separate Occupiers (1921)—504. Rateable Value—£8,461.
Sum represented by a penny rate—£25 approximately.

Two Nurses are supplied by the Nurses Association, and the Manageress here decides what cases they shall attend. Infectious Cases *or* otherwise are attended, but it depends on circumstances. Slight assistance is given by the County Council.

There is no Ambulance in the Borough, but one can be obtained either from Diss *or* Ipswich, by Telephone, day *or* night.

I remain,

Your obedient Servant,

T. H. PRYCE MORRIS,

Medical Officer of Health.